

A Trip into Town

By: CPT Michael V. Bush

Spouses and family members of the great Soldiers of 324th Network Signal Company, hello once again. It is my privilege to take this time to tell you about some of the outstanding work your Soldiers are doing here in Iraq.

Since deploying to Iraq, 324th Network Support Company has taken on various missions that have put its Soldiers' outside of their comfort zone as communications network technicians. From Soldiers being tasked to provide support to other units outside the Fires Brigade, to providing communications networks to remote parts of the 4th Infantry Division Area of Operations, the Soldiers of the 324th NSC have met the challenges head on and exceeded the standards in all tasks. So, when the Signal Soldiers were asked to lead and provide convoy security for their fellow Soldier of a separate unit, Soldiers of the A/26 TAB, they jumped at the opportunity to assist. 324th Soldiers are no strangers to the dangerous streets of Iraq. In late December a 5-Soldier's provided convoy security escorting the unit's equipment from Kuwait to Forward Operating Base Liberty. This new mission however would be different from the previous mission mentioned above. This mission called for the Signal Soldiers to travel through the heart of Baghdad and up through the city to LSA Anaconda, a very long distance away. This was a very dangerous route riddled with improvised explosive devices and small arms fire.

Soldiers trained with elements of A/26 TAB for three days prior to the convoy security detail. Under the leadership of SGT (P) Alvin Brown, Soldiers rehearsed battle drills day and night for the dangerous mission that lay ahead. SGT Brown, a two time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, knows all too well the dangers of traveling the roads of Iraq. Soldiers also conducted Pre-Combat Checks and Pre-Combat Inspections of all weapons, vehicles, and uniform equipment before leaving the FOB. The sharp eyes of CPL (P) Matthew Cates, also a two time veteran, were the tasked with the mission of inspecting the PCC/PCI. CPL Cates is one of the sharpest leaders in the Company, who scrutinizes each task his soldiers are required to perform down to the minute details. According to CPL Cates, the keys to success for him are, "Training to standard, adhering to the safety guidance issued by the commander, and knowing how to use the Escalation of Force techniques".

Additional pieces of equipment that 324th NSC Soldiers were required to wear the IBAS protective armor, ballistic eye protection, ear plugs, and knee and elbow pads.

Even though details of the convoy are classified information, it is safe to say that the Soldiers did an outstanding job in the face of the unforeseen dangers in the Iraqi streets. These Soldiers trained and planned for a total of 48 hours for this mission to ensure they were prepared for any danger. They conducted themselves as professionals and accomplished the mission safely with no issues.



The Soldiers who were assigned to the security convoy detail are:

CPT Michael V. Bush
1SG Allen Braswell
SGT (P) Alvin Brown
CPL Matthew Cates
CPL Jeffrey Gibbon

PFC Anthony Deluca
PFC Robert Tubbs
PFC Bryon Gilmartin
PFC Hermann Kriemann

To all of the families of 324th NSC FRG, you should be very proud of the work your young Soldiers are doing here in Iraq. They are a part of history in the making. Very few people are brave enough and selfless enough to risk their lives to bring peace and prosperity to the all peoples of the world, but it takes an even more bravery and selflessness to support the Soldier who fights the battles so far from home. You and your Soldiers are the best citizens that the Greatest Country on Earth has to offer.